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ART. 13. A NEW RACE OF PAROQUET OF THE SPECIES
ARATINGA ASTEC FROM THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

BY ARTHUR C. TWOMEY

A comprehensive survey of the bird life of the Republic of Honduras was begun by the author in 1947 and 1948 and will continue until the country can be adequately covered.

This extensive field research by the Section of Birds of Carnegie Museum has been made possible by the generosity and continued interest of Dr. Matthew T. Mellon, who has encouraged the author in every phase of this work. During my first preliminary studies of the 1947 and 1948 collections, a distinct race of *Aratinga astec* has appeared that warrants sub-specific recognition. In appreciation of Dr. Mellon's unfailing support it is an honor to name this new race for him.

Aratinga astec melloni subsp. nov. MELLON'S PAROQUET.

Type: No. 133,003, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; La Ceiba, Honduras, April 30, 1948; Arthur C. Twomey and R. W. Hawkins.

Paratypes: No. 133,007 C.M., from the type locality, April 30, 1948; No. 132,540 C.M., Trujillo, Honduras, March 30, 1948; No. 132,540 C.M., Trujillo, Honduras, March 31, 1948; No. 133,528 C.M., Coyoles, Honduras, June 16, 1948; No. 133,730 C.M., San Esteban, Honduras, June 30, 1948.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS

Differs from *Aratinga astec astec* from Costa Rica in being decidedly paler on the breast, abdomen and flanks, the green being duller and more suffused with a grayish undertone, the olivaceous cast to the breast and throat duller; the back is paler with an olivaceous cast on the crown, back and interscapular regions in contrast to the brighter green of *Aratinga astec astec*. Similar to *Aratinga astec vicinalis* but is duller and lacks the bright greens on abdomen and back. Specimens from British Honduras are intermediate between *Aratinga astec vicinalis* and *Aratinga astec melloni*.

AVERAGE MEASUREMENTS

Based on six specimens: wing, 132-139 (135); tail, 109-113 (112.5); culmen, 19-20 (19.7); tarsus, 12-15 (13.5).



SPECIMENS EXAMINED

All specimens listed below are contained in the collection of the Carnegie Museum.

Aratinga astec melloni—Honduras: La Ceiba, 2; Trujillo, 1; San Esteban, 1; Coyoles, 1.

Aratinga astec vicinalis—Mexico: Estado de Tamaulipas, 1.

Aratinga astec vicinalis (intermediate with *A. a. melloni*)—British Honduras: Manatee Lagoon, 6; Duck Run (Benque Ceiba), 1.

Aratinga astec astec—Costa Rica: El Hogar, 3; Guapiles, 4.

Present known range: North coast of Honduras inland to Olancho.